

## CANADA.

Its Military Strength and Means of Resistance to the Fenians.

## SKETCHES OF THE CANADIAN MINISTRY.

## Their Antecedents, Politics and Characteristics.

## Leading Projects of the Coalition Government.

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## Military Divisions of Canada.

Canada is divided into two great military districts, viz: the eastern and western. Each is under the command of a major general, and Montreal is the headquarters of the army in Canada.

## THE LOWER CANADA DISTRICT.

This extends from the Gulf to the Ottawa river, including the country south of the St. Lawrence. In command of this district is Major General Lindsay, who has his headquarters at Montreal. The force under his orders amounts to about five and a half battalions of infantry, four companies of artillery and three of engineers; in all about four thousand five hundred men for duty, and they are stationed as follows:

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
At Quebec (about)	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750
At Montreal	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
At Chambly	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
At St. Johns	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
At Isle aux Noix	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
Total	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500

Inté aux Noix may be called his outpost, it being on the Richelieu river and the nearest post to the line. Along the line, from St. Regis to St. Johns, there is no military post.

Besides the regular force the General has command of the volunteer militia, who are very strong on paper and very weak at muster, as is the way with all militia.

## THE UPPER CANADA DISTRICT.

This extends from the Ottawa river to the western boundary of Canada. All of it lies north of the chain of lakes, and it is, therefore, more defensible than the frontier of the lower district, which has no natural obstruction to check an enemy. In command of this district is Major General Napier, who has his headquarters at Toronto. The force under his orders amounts to about three and a half battalions of infantry, four companies of artillery and three of engineers; in all about three thousand men, stationed as follows:

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
At Toronto	550	550	550	550	550	550	550
At Hamilton	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
At London	700	700	700	700	700	700	700
At other points	450	450	450	450	450	450	450
Total	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000

Niagara, Windsor, and the other small places along the frontier, are the outposts of this district. Besides the regular force enumerated above, the General has at the present time nine hundred volunteers, who like the militia in the lower district, would swell his forces materially on paper, and add to it very weakly on muster ground.

In command of all the forces is General Michel, who is his commandant at Montreal, with a full staff of young officers from the Guards.

## DEFENCE AGAINST THE FENIAN ENEMY.

The steps taken to meet any attack of the Fenian enemy are the sending of companies of troops to the open points of the frontier, and the concentrating of strong bodies at central interior points, from which they can be transported to the frontier in the least time. For example, Sir George Grey, who is in command of the depot of the Great Western Rail-road, at London, has station nearly equivalent from Hamilton and Windsor. By this means bodies of men can be carried either to the Niagara or the western frontier with facility. The chief concentrations of troops are at Montreal in the East, and Hamilton and Niagara in the West. Six thousand of our troops have been sent out to the troops at the two places in the West, and they are expected to give a good account of themselves.

The capital (Ottawa) is being so far back from the frontier, and with so large a force lying within seven hours' railroad time from the frontier, that it is difficult to defend. This is the fact that there are no winter quarters for troops at that point, no regular force is there stationed, the place being left to the defence of the few companies of volunteer militia of the district, including a company called the Civil Service corps, who are much more apt at the pen than the rifle.

The front of the state of the river gives the Fenian enemy a choice of many points of attack, and every facility of reaching them—no posts are needed—nor can the iron bridge be readily broken up, it being so firm at the point where it crosses the river. This is the fact that the Fenian enemy would fight with the advantage on their side. If General Sweeny goes into Canada he must look for a rough campaign, however, and good troops to fight against, will be required, and the time taken by them to march from the south and forty-seven regiments should be succeeded in planting the ambush bag on Canadian soil, great will be the glory of the deed. The 17th of March is not far off, and he may make it the "idiot of March" to the people of Canada.

## The Canadian Ministry.

MONTREAL, Jan. 27, 1866.  
The present Ministry of Canada being a famous one, owing to coalition, a brief sketch of its members will not be uninteresting. The following is a list of the notable twelve:

HON. W. P. BELMONT.

This minister is Premier. He is a man of some rank and a fair legislator; but he is not the real leader of the ministry. Being of the reform party in the West, he is one of the three members who now hold office. A few years ago he was sent by the Governor General to form a ministry (on the resignation of a reform ministry) in which he did not succeed. Mr. Blair is noted for his good principles, and being a man of humor, he can be had from the political sun to change to his opinions, which draw a great deal of humor upon them. This minister may now be regarded as the leader of the reform party in the West, and the chief of the three of that party who sit in the Cabinet.

HON. A. A. MACDONALD.

He is the Attorney General, West, and Minister of Justice. He is a lawyer, and is a sharp one, borders being well read in legislation. He has a military taste, and a wish to figure as a sort of Carrot, one of Council Beauport's policies, in which he is enabled to indulge as Minister of Militia. The minister can organize the militia force of Canada in time of peace, and in the event of a war "organize victory" from the rear, as Carrot did in his time. He is the leader of the conservative wing of the Conservative party. In the House he is a ready debater and a good speaker, so that he can do his party great service. He has been in all the ministries formed by his party during the last few years, and always as Attorney General, West, the name of which is now in Canada is better suited than it.

HON. G. C. CARTIER.

This is Attorney General, East. He is a lawyer, and is sharp in law, but is sharper in politics, therefore he cuts a better figure in Parliament than he does at the bar. Mr. Cartier is a member of the Macdonald-Cartier, the leader of the Conservative party. He is the French conservative party. He is rather a cunning man than an able one, his education being poor. In French, this Minister can speak for a long time, not very well, however, as he is more ignorant from the length of his life. He is the author of the "Law of the dog," to worry against time, or to worry the new members of the House. He has liked himself (for his pertinacity) to a bulldog terrier ("bad dog terrier," he says), and is rather proud of his wing.

HON. R. H. GRIMSHAW.

This gentleman is President of the Council. He is a man well fitted for the post and one of the best members of the ministry. Being of the reform party in the West, he is one of the three members who now hold office. A few years ago he was sent by the Governor General to form a ministry (on the resignation of a reform ministry) in which he did not succeed. Mr. Blair is noted for his good principles, and being a man of humor, he can be had from the political sun to change to his opinions, which draw a great deal of humor upon them. This minister may now be regarded as the leader of the reform party in the West, and the chief of the three of that party who sit in the Cabinet.

HON. J. B. MCNAUL.

He is the Attorney General, West, and Minister of Justice. He is a lawyer, and is a sharp one, borders being well read in legislation. He has a military taste, and a wish to figure as a sort of Carrot, one of Council Beauport's policies, in which he is enabled to indulge as Minister of Militia. The minister can organize the militia force of Canada in time of peace, and in the event of a war "organize victory" from the rear, as Carrot did in his time. He is the leader of the conservative wing of the Conservative party. In the House he is a ready debater and a good speaker, so that he can do his party great service. He has been in all the ministries formed by his party during the last few years, and always as Attorney General, West, the name of which is now in Canada is better suited than it.

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HON. W. MACDONALD.

He is one of the three reform members of the Cabinet, and may be almost regarded as the second leader of that party in the West. Mr. Macdonald is a man of ability, and an editor by profession. He is a member of the Macdonald-Cartier, the leader of the Conservative party of that time (the Macdonald-Cartier), advised his party to "look to Washington," meaning by that to look to the United States for a better state of political affairs, which meant cutting loose from the British crown. The United States was then in the middle of the Civil War, and Mr. Macdonald advised his party to "look to Washington," meaning by that to look to the United States for a better state of political affairs, which meant cutting loose from the British crown. The United States was then in the middle of the Civil War, and Mr. Macdonald advised his party to "look to Washington," meaning by that to look to the United States for a better state of political affairs, which meant cutting loose from the British crown. 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